

Amendments to the Specification:

Please note that all references to paragraph numbers in the specification refer to the paragraphs as numbered when the patent application was published by the USPTO (Patent Application Publication 20050113955 published on May 26, 2005). The original application-as-filed numbered paragraphs in a different manner.

NB 6/5/07 [0006]
Please delete paragraph [0007] which begins "Understanding the Fundamentals of Kanban and Conwip Pull Systems Using Simulation."

NB 6/5/07 [0012] [0020]
Please delete paragraphs [0014] through [0037] which begin "An object of this invention is to provide a system ..." and end "... the product lot is placed on a queue of one of the first following pieces of manufacturing equipment."

NB 6/5/07 [0038]
Please replace paragraph [0068] with the following amended paragraph:

[0068] The manufacturing execution systems 20a, . . . , 20n maintain a manufacturing information database as shown in Fig. 3, and provide the appropriate product lot status and criticality factor to the dispatch system 35. The manufacturing information database 200 illustrates the routing 205 for each product lot as it progresses through the pieces of equipment of each of the manufacturing stages 15a, 15b, . . . , 15n or 25a, 25b, . . . , 25n. The stage number is the designator for each manufacturing stage 15a, 15b, . . . , 15n or 25a, 25b, . . . , 25n through which a given product lot is to progress. In the illustration shown, the product lot is in one of the pieces of equipment of the manufacturing stage 210 designated 100. The database 200 shows the dispatch view 215 and the lot view 220. The dispatch view 215 exemplifies the lot dispatcher view where current tool (200) is the piece or group of pieces of manufacturing equipment that is to receive the product lot or lots upon completion. The downstream tools are the following and next following pieces